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SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 653rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 28 October 1991, at 11 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. GAMBARI (Nigeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.30 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted.

2. The CHAIRMAN welcomed the new Permanent Representatives of Algeria, India and Nepal and expressed the Special Committee's gratitude and appreciation to the former Permanent Representatives of Algeria, India and Nepal for their valuable contributions to the work of the Committee.

FILLING OF VACANCIES

3. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Special Committee decided to elect Mr. Acharya (Nepal) as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Goel (India) as Rapporteur.

4. It was so decided.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that the process of dismantling apartheid through negotiations was still at an early stage and could be long and complicated. As the focal point of United Nations anti-apartheid activities, the Special Committee must encourage that process, and he was certain he could count on the full cooperation of the members of the Special Committee in that common endeavour.

6. He drew attention to two important documents that had been circulated among the members of the Special Committee, namely, the Commonwealth Communiqué on South Africa and the Declaration adopted at the Patriotic/United Front Conference held at Durban from 25 to 27 October 1991. He would request the Centre against Apartheid to make a critical analysis of those documents and formulate options, particularly with respect to the question of sanctions, in order to ensure that the Special Committee did not become irrelevant in the process of the peaceful dismantling of apartheid. He would report to the Special Committee at an appropriate time regarding the results of the analysis.

7. Mr. AIT CHAALAL (Algeria) thanked the Chairman for the kind words he had addressed to his predecessor and himself. Algeria had always been active in efforts to eliminate apartheid, the last vestige of colonialism in Africa, and his delegation would continue to cooperate fully in the Special Committee in order to achieve that goal.

8. Mr. ACHARYA (Nepal) said that Nepal had always supported the just cause of the oppressed majority of South Africa, and his delegation would work closely with the Special Committee in order to ensure that apartheid was eliminated from the face of the earth.

9. Mr. GOEL (India) said that India's views on apartheid were well known. The Committee should make concerted efforts to ensure that the last vestiges of that shameful system were removed as soon as possible so that the Committee could report to the world that it had fulfilled its mandate.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.